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BOOK REVIEW

Dialysis. History, development, and promise.

Todd S. Ing, Mohamed A. Rahman, Carl M. Kjellstrand, editors. Singapore: World Scientific; 2012, p. 969. ISBN-13 978-981-4289-75-7.

We read with excitement this book compiled by Todd S. Ing, Mohamed A. Rahman, and Carl M. Kjellstrand. With the ever-growing technological advances in dialysis therapy, it is difficult to keep track of the history and development of this form of renal replacement therapy that has undoubtedly saved the lives of a countless number of people all over the world over the past few decades. Yet, as Dr Ing puts it, the story of dialysis threads together myriad years of scientific discovery and individual vision. There is no single book or publication in any format that embraces the past, present, and future of dialysis therapy better than this comprehensive state-of-the-art masterpiece.

The book consists of three major parts divided into 11 subsections, all written by world-renowned clinician–scientists of outstanding caliber. In the first part of the book, a detailed and vivid recollection of the challenges overcome, and difficulties endured, by the pioneers of dialysis is presented. For history lovers, the numerous illustrations of utmost historical interest are not to be missed. The second part deals with the progressive development and expansion of dialysis procedures over the

years, including the various modes of peritoneal dialysis, continuous renal replacement therapy, nondialytic ultrafiltration, and even dialysis in animals (pet lovers will simply love this part). In addition, specific references are made to dialysis practices across different continents, special problems encountered by dialysis patients, and clinical practice guidelines. The last, but certainly not the least, portion of the book probes into the potential of futuristic aspects of dialysis. Previously unthinkable approaches such as wearable artificial kidneys, nanotechnology, affinity hemodialysis, bioartificial kidneys, stem cell therapy, and kidney regeneration are well collated. These are excellent starting points for those with a knack in exploring new ventures.

This is a rare opportunity of having a preeminent book on everything one would want to know about dialysis. We strongly recommend it for all clinicians and researchers in the field.

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